

Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE

Release Notes

Release 13.1.2.3

April 2010

Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for the Clearance Optimization Engine (IP COE), facilitates the translation of merchandise financial plans into execution level, item driven strategies to be followed throughout the life of a product. It represents the bottom-up planning process, complementing and working in concert with the top-down financial plans. By providing weekly visibility into item performance and financial targets, the item planning process increases the likelihood that merchandising strategies are successfully executed within the financial plan parameters.

Item Planning is part of an overall planning process that involves planning at multiple levels of the product hierarchy. The planning process can be thought of as a continual process where each step enhances the following step, and prior performance affects plans for future performance. Planning takes input from multiple parties, and good communication enhances the process so that it can help drive a financial roadmap for success. Multiple versions of the plan are created to benchmark success as well as to provide insight to opportunities and risk for the in season period.

This continual process can be defined as two main steps: Pre Season planning and In Season planning. The Pre Season planning objective is to create the benchmark against which to measure in season performance. This plan benchmark is the Original Plan (OP). This plan version should not be adjusted once the planning season has begun.

The Pre Season planning process begins with the creation of a baseline with which to plan. This baseline can be derived from last year history, or adjusted last year history. Once the baseline is set, the balance set of measures is planned. This planning occurs at multiple levels of the product hierarchy. The role of Item Planning is to break out the Merchandise Financial Plan at the subclass, or lowest, hierarchy level to more definable plans at the style or style/color level. This lower level of detail assists in providing insight for the item planner when in season on areas of opportunity and risk.

Once in season, the process of planning switches over to In Season planning. Now the item planner will focus on in season management. The item planner uses the OP plan as a benchmark against which to measure opportunity and risk. The plan version that the item planner uses is the Working Plan (WP). When the item planner is ready to self-approve the WP plans, the item planner approves to the Current Plan (CP) version.

In addition to the basic item planning process described above, Item Planning Configured for COE supports in-season markdown optimization, analysis, and execution. This is achieved through batch integration and a real-time service call to the Clearance Optimization Engine (COE). COE represents an effort to open up the markdown optimization engine for use in external applications such as IP COE that need an in-season price recommendation and a forecast that accounts for planned promotions and future markdowns and product life cycle. The IP COE exit strategy process has been configured to load the weekly batch forecasts calculated in COE. Based on this recommended information, the user has the ability to run a what-if scenario to the COE optimization engine. In real time, the user receives a revised forecast. Within IP COE, analysis of the key planning metrics, using both the recommended and revised forecasts, takes place in order to execute the optimal markdown recommendation.

Overview of the Fashion Planning Bundle

The Fashion Planning Bundle is the integration of Item Planning (IP), Clearance Optimization Engine (COE), Assortment Planning (AP), Merchandise Financial Planning (MFP), and Size Profile Optimization (SPO) as a full-suite planning solution for fashion retailers.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

Technical Enhancement

IP COE 13.1.2.3 includes the following technical enhancement.

ODI Enabled Integration

Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration for the Fashion Planning Bundle is a set of packages that allows users to easily execute data transfers between Fashion Planning Bundle applications.

Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration leverages Oracle Data Integrator (ODI) to store information about data interfaces among Fashion Planning Bundle applications. ODI presents a user-friendly graphical interface for user-initiated data transfers and runtime monitoring. It also provides the ability to host application domains on different machines on a network, an ability not available with prior non-ODI integration strategies.

The Fashion Planning Bundle applications supported by this integration include Merchandise Financial Planning Retail (MFP Retail), Merchandise Financial Planning Cost (MFP Cost), Item Planning (IP), Item Planning Configured for COE (IP COE), Assortment Planning (AP), and Size Profile Optimization (SPO).

For more information on the version of ODI compatible with the Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration, see the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*.

Known Issues

The following table contains issues that have been identified for the current release. Note that some known issues/defects do not yet have a defect number.

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The integration scripts provided in previous releases of the Fashion Planning Bundle applications (MFP, AP, IP, IP COE, and SPO) are neither certified nor documented in this release. Please note, however, that the reinclusion of these scripts is in development for the Fashion Planning Bundle applications.	NA

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE 13.1.2.3 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE User Guide*

For more information about the Fashion Planning Bundle applications see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Clearance Optimization Engine documentation
- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization documentation

For more information about RPAS and the ODI Enabled Integration, see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration documentation
- Oracle Data Integrator documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

Previous Releases

For additional information on previous Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

Copyright © 2010, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

This software and related documentation are provided under a license agreement containing restrictions on use and disclosure and are protected by intellectual property laws. Except as expressly permitted in your license agreement or allowed by law, you may not use, copy, reproduce, translate, broadcast, modify, license, transmit, distribute, exhibit, perform, publish, or display any part, in any form, or by any means. Reverse engineering, disassembly, or decompilation of this software, unless required by law for interoperability, is prohibited.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice and is not warranted to be error-free. If you find any errors, please report them to us in writing.

If this software or related documentation is delivered to the U.S. Government or anyone licensing it on behalf of the U.S. Government, the following notice is applicable:

U.S. GOVERNMENT RIGHTS Programs, software, databases, and related documentation and technical data delivered to U.S. Government customers are "commercial computer software" or "commercial technical data" pursuant to the applicable Federal Acquisition Regulation and agency-specific supplemental regulations. As such, the use, duplication, disclosure, modification, and adaptation shall be subject to the restrictions and license terms set forth in the applicable Government contract, and, to the extent applicable by the terms of the Government contract, the additional rights set forth in FAR 52.227-19, Commercial Computer Software License (December 2007). Oracle USA, Inc., 500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood City, CA 94065.

This software is developed for general use in a variety of information management applications. It is not developed or intended for use in any inherently dangerous applications, including applications which may create a risk of personal injury. If you use this software in dangerous applications, then you shall be responsible to take all appropriate fail-safe, backup, redundancy, and other measures to ensure the safe use of this software. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates disclaim any liability for any damages caused by use of this software in dangerous applications.

Oracle is a registered trademark of Oracle Corporation and/or its affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

This software and documentation may provide access to or information on content, products, and services from third parties. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates are not responsible for and expressly disclaim all warranties of any kind with respect to third-party content, products, and services. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates will not be responsible for any loss, costs, or damages incurred due to your access to or use of third-party content, products, or services.

Licensing Note: This media pack includes a Restricted Use license for Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) - Enterprise Engine to support Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE only.

Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

The following restrictions and provisions only apply to the programs referred to in this section and licensed to you. You acknowledge that the programs may contain third party software (VAR applications) licensed to Oracle. Depending upon your product and its version number, the VAR applications may include:

(i) the software component known as **ACUMATE** developed and licensed by Lucent Technologies Inc. of Murray Hill, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server - Enterprise Engine, Oracle Retail Category Management, Oracle Retail Item Planning, Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning, Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning, Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting, Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization, Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization, Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization applications.

(ii) the **MicroStrategy** Components developed and licensed by MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MicroStrategy) of McLean, Virginia to Oracle and imbedded in the MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse and MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Planning & Optimization applications.

(iii) the **SeeBeyond** component developed and licensed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Sun) of Santa Clara, California, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Integration Bus application.

(iv) the **Wavelink** component developed and licensed by Wavelink Corporation (Wavelink) of Kirkland, Washington, to Oracle and imbedded in Oracle Retail Mobile Store Inventory Management.

(v) the software component known as **Crystal Enterprise Professional and/or Crystal Reports Professional** licensed by SAP and imbedded in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management.

(vi) the software component known as **Access Via™** licensed by Access Via of Seattle, Washington, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Signs and Oracle Retail Labels and Tags.

(vii) the software component known as **Adobe Flex™** licensed by Adobe Systems Incorporated of San Jose, California, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Promotion Planning & Optimization application.

(viii) the software component known as **Style Report™** developed and licensed by InetSoft Technology Corp. of Piscataway, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

(ix) the software component known as **DataBeacon™** developed and licensed by Cognos Incorporated of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

You acknowledge and confirm that Oracle grants you use of only the object code of the VAR Applications. Oracle will not deliver source code to the VAR Applications to you. Notwithstanding any other term or condition of the agreement and this ordering document, you shall not cause or permit alteration of any VAR Applications. For purposes of this section, "alteration" refers to all alterations, translations, upgrades, enhancements, customizations or modifications of all or any portion of the VAR Applications including all reconfigurations, reassembly or reverse assembly, re-engineering or reverse engineering and recompilations or reverse compilations of the VAR Applications or any derivatives of the VAR Applications. You acknowledge that it shall be a breach of the agreement to utilize the relationship, and/or confidential information of the VAR Applications for purposes of competitive discovery.

The VAR Applications contain trade secrets of Oracle and Oracle's licensors and Customer shall not attempt, cause, or permit the alteration, decompilation, reverse engineering, disassembly or other reduction of the VAR Applications to a human perceivable form. Oracle reserves the right to replace, with functional equivalent software, any of the VAR Applications in future releases of the applicable program.